

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
2 June 2005 (02.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/048967 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 7/42**,  
38/22, A61P 17/00

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2004/001630

(22) International Filing Date:  
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2003906813 24 November 2003 (24.11.2003) AU

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A METHOD OF INDUCING MELANOGENESIS IN HUMANS WITH MC1R VARIANT ALLELES

(57) Abstract: A method for inducing melanogenesis in a human subject having a melanocortin 1 receptor (MC1R) variant allele associated with loss of or diminished receptor function comprises administering to said subject an amount of an  $\alpha$ -melanocyte stimulating hormone ( $\alpha$ -MSH) analogue effective to induce melanogenesis by the melanocytes in the skin or other epidermal tissue of the subject.

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